

Boston Sept 7th 1839

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

Dear Sir,

published in "Right & Wrong in Mass" ^{the original}
of your letter, which so much ^{pleased & surprised} ~~astonished~~
Mr Emerson, is in my possession, he has
transmitted to me your letter of inquiring respecting
it. I enclose an attested copy, that you may
see what ~~has been~~ ^{has been} omitted in the publication.
The original, you will perceive, it is ^{well} ~~necessary~~
that I should retain. I may ^{use} ~~use~~ this opportunity
to express my regret that your course towards per-
sons & publishers should have been such as to
take the case of the letter to Mr Emerson from
under the statutes respecting private correspondence,
& place it under those which stand against treachery
betrayal. ^{your course left your correspondent no choice.} The only ^{prudent} ~~prudent~~ for a faithful person
to pursue in a case like this, ^{was} in my opinion,
to make it public, at however great a
sacrifice of personal feeling. When once a man's
word has gone out from him, it ^{ceases to be} ~~is no longer~~ his
own. It has become incorporated into the grand mass of
cause & effect, & forms a part of the common
stock of the universe.

It has been very painful to me to mark
as I have done from the time ^{two years since} ~~when~~, alarmed
by some things I had observed in your course,
I sent for you that we might ^{engage} ~~confer~~ together to what
they tended - it has been very painful to me since

these, to mark your gradual alienation & estrangement, & final yielding, ^{well-disguisedly, pro slavery} under the pressure brought to bear upon you. From the time that your judgement decided Mr Towne to be "an apostate" to the present when you stand with him, how great a change ^{in you! Dear Brother Phelps,} May ^{say to you} Christian pliancy & flexibility, as one bound with you in the bonds of a common humanity, ~~that the day~~ that though you had even done more than to forsake worthy friends, act against your own principles of action, & betray an important trust assumed by you, it is never too late to retrace downward steps. The pain you have inflicted on generous & fraternally confiding hearts, may yet be turned by you into a joy greater than if you had never known them. The cause of Freedom so deeply wounded by you, may yet, through your perception of your wrong course, receive healing at your hands.

With earnest prayer that so it may be, I am yours with entire good will,
Maria W. Chapman.

+ your words to me in the A.S. office, shortly after the appeal.

Ms. A.9.2.12.26